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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS EFIS EC

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S SPEECH OF APRIL 8 ON LOS

REFS: A) STATE 095109 B) STATE 084997

1. CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY POLCOUNS, CALLED ON SUBSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOSE AYALA LASSO ON APRIL 12 TO DELIVER TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON APRIL 8 ON LOS. CHARGE ALSO LEFT AN AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING GIST OF TALKING POINTS IN REF A.

2. AFTER READING AIDE MEMOIRE SUBSECRETARY AYALA COMMENTED INITIALLY THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO READING THE COMPLETE TEXT IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND WHY AMBASSADOR JUAN MIGUEL BAKULA OF PERU, WHOM HE REGARDED AS VERY SERIOUS AND KNOWLEDGEABLE IN LOS MATTERS, HAD REACTED SO STRONGLY TO THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH. HE THEN WENT ON TO EXPRESS HIS AGREEMENT WITH THE SECRETARY THAT WE ARE AT A CRITICAL STAGE IN LOS NEGOTIATIONS, AND STRESSED THAT ECUADOR SHARES THE USG'S STRONG DESIRE TO ARRIVE AT A COMPREHENSIVE LOS TREATY. AYALA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS INCREASINGLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE INTRANSIGENT AND UNREASONABLE POSITION BEING TAKEN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE 49 LAND-LOCKED STATES. HE SUGGESTED THAT INDUSTRIALIZED FISHING NATIONS WERE ENCOURAGING THESE COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO WEAKEN DEVELOPING COASTAL STATES' EFFORTS TO EXERCISE AS MUCH CONTROL POSSIBLE OVER THEIR COASTAL WATERS. THIS FINAL STATEMENT WAS QUESTIONED BY THE CHARGE AND POLCOUNS, WHO POINTED OUT THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED FISHING POWERS ALSO HAVE EXTENSIVE COASTAL WATERS AND WOULD NOT WANT TO WRECK THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS. AYALA DID NOT SEEM CONVINCED.

3. THE SUBSECRETARY ALSO STATED THE GOE'S CONCERN ABOUT THE US POSITION ON EXPLOITATION OF THE DEEP SEA-BED. THE CHARGE REPLIED THAT HE BELIEVED THE SUBSECRETARY WOULD SEE SOME CREATIVE INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA IN THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH, WHICH WE HOPED WOULD FIND FAVOR AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

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HE ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE SPEECH WOULD REVEAL FLEXIBILITY AND A REAL COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE US TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT.

4. THE SUBSECRETARY AGAIN PROMISED THAT THE GOE WOULD STUDY THE SPEECH VERY CAREFULLY AND TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION IN FORMULATING ITS OWN POSITIONS IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS.

HEMENWAY

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